

We claim:

1. A method of message delivery from a wireless calling party terminal using a wireless communications network to a called party terminal, wherein the called party terminal has call waiting, the method comprising:

determining that the called party terminal's line is busy;  
delivering a "call waiting no answer" message to the calling party terminal;  
prompting the calling party to leave a message for the called party; and  
storing the message from the calling party on the wireless communications network.

2. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising delivering the message from the calling party terminal to the called party terminal.

3. The method defined in claim 2 further comprising delivering the message from the calling party to the called party terminal when the called party terminal's line is no longer busy.

4. The method defined in claim 3 further comprising:  
determining that an undelivered message awaits the called party after the called party terminal's line is no longer busy; and  
retrieving the message from the calling party from the network.

5. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the storing step further comprises storing the message from the calling party in the called party's voice mail.

6. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising starting a called party call pickup timer after the step of determining that the called party terminal is busy, wherein the step of delivering the "call waiting no answer" message is performed after the call pickup timer expires.

7. The method defined in claim 6 wherein the call pickup timer includes a predetermined number of rings.

8. The method defined in claim 6 wherein the call pickup timer includes a predetermined time period.

9. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising determining that the called party terminal has call waiting.

10. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising allowing the called party to disable the method of message delivery thereby preventing the delivering, prompting and storing steps.

11. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising allowing the calling party to enable the method of message delivery thereby enabling the delivering, prompting and storing steps.

12. The method defined in claim 11 further comprising allowing the calling party to enable the method of message delivery thereby enabling the delivering, prompting and storing steps even if the calling party does not have call waiting.

13. The method defined in claim 11 wherein the calling party can enable the method of message delivery thereby enabling the delivering, prompting and storing steps even though the called party has disabled the feature.

14. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the called party is using a cellular terminal.

15. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the called party is using a wireline terminal.

16. A method of message delivery for an incoming call from a wireless calling party terminal using a wireless communications network to a called party terminal, wherein the called party terminal has call waiting, the method comprising:

storing a message from the calling party on the wireless communications network when the called party terminal is connected to a third party; and

delivering the stored message from the calling party to the called party once the called party terminal's line is no longer connected to the third party.

17. A system for message delivery from a wireless calling party terminal using a wireless communications network to a called party terminal, wherein the called party terminal has call waiting, the method comprising:

means for determining that the called party terminal's line is busy;

means for delivering a "call waiting no answer" message to the calling party terminal;

means for prompting the calling party to leave a message for the called party; and

means for storing the message from the calling party on the network.

18. The system defined in claim 17 further comprising means for delivering the message from the calling party terminal to the called party terminal when the called party terminal's line is no longer busy.

19. The system defined in claim 17 further comprising:

means for determining that an undelivered message awaits the called party after the called party terminal's line is no longer busy; and

means for retrieving the message from the calling party from the network.

20. The system defined in claim 17 further comprising a called party call pickup timer, wherein the means for delivering the "call waiting no answer" message delivers the "call waiting no answer" message after the call pickup timer expires.